

TEXT OF THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
EISENHOWER AT CEREMONIES LAYING
THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BUILDING,
LANGLEY, VIRGINIA, NOVEMBER 3, 1959

3 Nov 1959

America's fundamental aspiration is the preservation of peace. To this end we seek to develop policies and arrangements to make the peace both permanent and just. This can be done only on the basis of comprehensive (of required) information.

and appropriate

In war nothing is more important to a commander than the facts concerning the strength, dispositions and intention of his opponent, and the proper interpretation of those facts. In peacetime the necessary facts are of a different nature. They deal with conditions, resources, requirements and attitudes prevailing in the world. They are essential and their correct inter- pretation to the development of policy to further our long term national security and best interests. To provide information of this kind is the task of the organization of which you are a part.

No task could be more important.

Upon the quality of your work depends in large measure the success of our effort to further the nation's position in the international scene.

By its very nature the work of this agency demands of its members the highest order of dedication, ability, trustworthiness and selflessness -- to say nothing of the finest type of courage, whenever needed. Success cannot be advertised; failure cannot be explained. In the work of Intelligence, heroes are undecorated and unsung, often even among their own fraternity. Their inspiration is rooted in patriotism -- their reward can be little except the conviction that they are performing a unique and indispensable service for their country, and the knowledge that America needs and appreciates their efforts. I assure you this is indeed true.

The reputation of your organization for quality and excellence, of performance under the leadership of your Director, Mr. Allen Dulles, is a proud one.

Because I deeply believe these things, I deem it a great privilege to participate in this ceremony of corner-stone laying for the national headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency. On this spot will rise a beautiful and useful structure. May it long endure, to serve the cause of America and of peace.

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